

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for providing procurement services to a plurality of customer companies, comprising the steps of:

3 establishing a user profile for each person authorized
4 by a customer company to access said procurement
5 services;

6 associating each said company with a company group of
7 related companies;

8 said user profile specifying for each said user a user
9 company and company group;

10 providing for each procurement resource to be shared
11 among said users a resource profile specifying for each
12 resource those said companies to have access to said
13 procurement resource; and

14 responsive to said user profile and said resource
15 profiles, controlling user access to said procurement
16 resources.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 providing said procurement resources in a front-end catalog
3 and requisition server.

1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving a user request from a first client browser to
3 log in to said front-end server;

4 responsive to said request, providing a user interface
5 at said client browser only to procurement resources
6 authorized by said user profile and said resource
7 profiles.

1 4. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized
3 by different company groups to enter a requisition to a

4 vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract
5 resource; and

6 generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with
7 respect to requisitions originating with users from
8 each said company group.

1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of:
2 leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company
3 groups with respect to the same volume specific
4 contract for goods or services.

1 6. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:
2 allowing said user to apply procurement charges to
3 charge centers only within his company group.

1 7. The method of claim 3, said procurement resources
2 including a vendor catalog.

1 8. The method of claim 3, said procurement resources
2 including a blanket order procurement contract for goods or
3 services.

1 9. The method of claim 3, said procurement resources
2 including a user profile table.

1 10. The method of claim 3, said procurement resources
2 including costs centers.

1 11. The method of claim 3, said procurement resources
2 including accounting general ledger codes with company group
3 specific accounting rules and defaults.

1 12. System for providing procurement services to a
2 plurality of customer companies, comprising:

3 a front end server;

4 a user profile for each person authorized by a customer
5 company to access said procurement services;

6 each said company associated with a company group of
7 related companies;

8 said user profile, specifying for each said user a user
9 company and company group;

10 a plurality of procurement resources to be shared among
11 said users;

12 a resource profile for each said procurement resource
13 specifying those said companies to have access to said
14 procurement resource; and

15 said user profile and said resource profiles for
16 controlling user access to said procurement resources.

1 13. The system of claim 12, said procurement resources
2 further comprising:

3 vendor catalog;

4 a blanket order procurement contract for goods or
5 services; and

6 a table of user profiles.

1 14. The system of claim 12, said procurement resources
2 further comprising:

3 costs centers; and

4 accounting general ledger codes with company group
5 specific accounting rules and defaults.

1 15. A program storage device readable by a machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a
3 machine to perform method steps for providing procurement
4 services to a plurality of customer companies, said method
5 steps comprising:

6 establishing a user profile for each person authorized
7 by a customer company to access said procurement
8 services;

9 associating each said company with a company group of
10 related companies;

11 said user profile specifying for each said user a user
12 company and company group;

13 providing for each procurement resource to be shared
14 among said users a resource profile specifying for each
15 resource those said companies to have access to said
16 procurement resource; and

17 responsive to said user profile and said resource
18 profiles, controlling user access to said procurement
19 resources.

1 16. The program storage device of claim 15, said method
2 steps further comprising providing said procurement
3 resources in a front-end catalog and requisition server.

1 17. The program storage device of claim 16, said method
2 steps further comprising the steps of:

3 receiving a user request from a first client browser to
4 log in to said front-end server;

5 responsive to said request, providing a user interface

6 at said client browser only to procurement resources
7 authorized by said user profile and said resource
8 profiles.

1 18. The program storage device of claim 16, said method
2 steps further comprising the steps of:

3 receiving requests from a plurality of users authorized
4 by different company groups to enter a requisition to a
5 vendor with respect to the same catalog or contract
6 resource; and

7 generating separate purchase orders to said vendor with
8 respect to requisitions originating with users from
9 each said company group.

1 19. The program storage device of claim 18, said method
2 steps further comprising the steps of:

3 leveraging procurement buys from a plurality of company
4 groups with respect to the same volume specific
5 contract for goods or services.

1 20. The program storage device of claim 16, said method
2 steps further comprising the steps of:

3 allowing said user to apply procurement charges to
4 charge centers only within his company group.

1 21. The program storage device of claim 17, said
2 procurement resources including a vendor catalog.

1 22. The program storage device of claim 17, said
2 procurement resources including a blanket order procurement
3 contract for goods or services.

1 23. The program storage device of claim 17, said
2 procurement resources including a user profile table.

1 24. The program storage device of claim 17, said
2 procurement resources including costs centers.

1 25. The program storage device of claim 17, said

2 procurement resources including accounting general ledger
3 codes with company group specific accounting rules and
4 defaults.

1 26. A computer program product or computer program element
2 for providing procurement services to a plurality of
3 customer companies according to method steps comprising:

4 establishing a user profile for each person authorized
5 by a customer company to access said procurement
6 services;

7 associating each said company with a company group of
8 related companies;

9 said user profile specifying for each said user a user
10 company and company group;

11 providing for each procurement resource to be shared
12 among said users a resource profile specifying for each
13 resource those said companies to have access to said
14 procurement resource; and

15 responsive to said user profile and said resource

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